(c) whether it is also a fact that Goverment have instructed all the States to initiate policies encouraging private sector to build new hotels;

(d) if so, the reaction of the State Goverments in this regard; and

(e) the action taken thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes.Sir. In the year 2005-06 the budget allocation for the Ministry of Tourism is Rs.786.00 crore against Rs. 500.00 crore in 2004-05.

(b) No specific allocation is earmarked/released to the State Goverments/UT Administrations. However, funds are sanctioned/released every year on the basis of prioritization of proposals in consultations with them and subject to availability of funds. Rs.28.28 crore has bean sanctioned and Rs.23.16 crore has been released for Andhra Pradesh for implementation of prioritized to tourism projects during the year 2004-05 and no tourism projects have so far been sanctioned during the current year.

(c) to (e) In the State Tourism Minister's Conference held in New Delhi in March, 2005, the State Governments have been advised to streamline their land policy by rezoning and redefining land use to facilitate development of adequate hotel rooms in metro cities and at tourism sites. In order to encourage construction of hotels in the country, the Ministry of Tourism has the scheme "Incentives to Accommodation Infrastructure" granting Capital/Interest subsidy to hotels.

**Employment potential In tourism industry**

714. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry have made a study of the employment potential, both direct and indirect, of the tourism; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism

had conducted a study in the year 2004, *inter alia* to forecast the employment in hotel industry and restaurants sector. The forecast made by the study is as follows :—

| Sector | Forecast for Employment | |
|---|---|---|
| | 2010 | 2020 |
| Hotels | 15,51,000 | 34,54,900 |
| Restaurants (incl.wayside dhabas, etc.) | 22,88,200 | 27,34,600 |

**Religious tourism**

†715. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted regarding religious tourism potentiality in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) No specific study for exploring potential of religious tourism in India has been conducted. The Ministry has however, got prepared 20 year Perspective Plans for the States in which tourism potential in all areas have been studied including tourism at religious/pilgrimage places. Further, the Ministry of Tourism commissioned an All-India, large scale Domestic Tourism Survey during 2002-03, according to which, share of Religious & Pilgrimage tourism in the total domestic tourist visits during the year was about 14%.

**Completion of irrigation projects**

†716. DR. MURLIMANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRIRAMJETHMALANI:

(a) whether it is a facttaht 460 irrigation projects are under construction in the country which were included for construction during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.